

Flooding

Flash Flood

Flash flooding can occur almost anywhere at any time in Alabama. It can occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall or a dam or levee failure. Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mudslides. You may not always have a warning of these sudden and deadly floods.



River Flood

Flooding along rivers is a natural and inevitable part of life. Some floods occur seasonally when winter or spring rains fill river basins with too much water too quickly. Torrential rains from decaying hurricanes or tropical systems can also produce major or record river flooding.



Urban/Area Flood

As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads and parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization increases runoff two to six times over what would occur on natural terrain. During periods of urban flooding, streets can become swift-moving rivers, while basements can become death traps as they fill with water.

